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## The Lady With Cats

Ann Stotts

*College of DuPage*

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## THE LADY WITH CATS

*Ann Stotts*

The lady with cats  
who lived down the block  
wore a housedress  
and slippers, red unblotted  
lipstick to the grocery store.  
For years we knew her French  
accent was fake.

The copper-look lamp  
hanging over the table  
was the moon we pinned hopes on.

My mother, straight pins wedged  
between her teeth, two steely  
hairs on her chin, spread cheap,  
dark fabric on red formica  
like a treasure map.